

[HOUSE BILL No. 15.]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, February 4, 1863.—Read first and second times. February 21, 1863.—Engrossed, read third time and passed.

RO. E. DIXON,
Clerk House of Representatives.

SENATE, February 25, 1863.—Read first and second times, and referred to the Committee on Naval Affairs. March 13, 1863.—Reported with amendments, and bill and amendments ordered to be printed.

A BILL

To be entitled An Act for the establishment and equalization of the grade of officers of the navy of the Confederate States and for other purposes.

1 SECTION 1. *The Congress of the Confederate States of America do*
2 *enact*, That from and after the passage of this act, the navy of
3 the Confederate States shall consist of the following commissioned
4 and warrant officers, to wit: Four admirals, three vice-admirals.
5 three rear-admirals, eight commodores, fifteen captains, thirty-
6 one commanders, thirty-one lieutenant commanders, one hundred
7 first lieutenants, twenty-five second lieutenants, thirty masters
8 in line of promotion, as many ensigns as may be necessary to
9 absorb the class of passed midshipmen, one hundred and forty-

10 eight midshipmen, twenty paymasters, forty assistant paymasters,
 11 one surgeon-in-chief, twenty-three surgeons—senior surgeons to
 12 be fleet surgeons, with pay now allowed by law—fifteen passed
 13 assistant surgeons, and hereafter as many as may be necessary to
 14 absorb the passing assistants, thirty assistant surgeons, one
 15 engineer-in-chief, fifteen chief engineers, fifty first assistant en-
 16 gineers, one hundred and fifty second assistant engineers, one
 17 hundred and fifty third assistant engineers, two constructors, five
 18 assistant constructors, thirty gunners, thirty boatswains, thirty
 19 carpenters, ten sailmakers.

1 SEC. 2. The vessels of the Confederate States Navy shall be
 2 divided into four classes, to be commanded as follows: When said
 3 classes of ships are constructed; but until first and second rates
 4 are constructed, the Secretary of the Navy may assign commo-
 5 dore and captains to the command of smaller vessels: First
 6 rate, having not less than four hundred officers, seamen and
 7 marines, by commodore. Second rate, having not less than two
 8 hundred and fifty officers, seamen and marines, by captains.
 9 Third rate, having not less than one hundred and twenty-five and
 10 not more than two hundred and fifty officers, seamen and marines,
 11 by commanders. Fourth rate, having one hundred and twenty-
 12 five, or less, officers, seamen and marines by lieutenants com-
 13 manders. Lieutenants commanders may be assigned as executive
 14 officers of naval stations or of vessels commanded by commodore.

1 SEC. 3. Two admirals, one vice-admiral, one rear-admiral, four
2 commodores, five captains, ten commanders, ten lieutenants com-
3 manders, and fifteen lieutenants shall be appointed solely for
4 highly distinguished conduct or extraordinary heroism in the line
5 of their profession, and in conflict with the enemy. During the
6 war, these appointments in all grades above that of lieutenants
7 commanders shall be made from the grade immediately below the
8 grade to be filled, and without reference to the rank of the officer
9 in such grade and the service for which the appointment shall be
10 conferred, shall be specified in the commission. During time of
11 peace, vacancies in these grades shall be filled by regular promo-
12 tion from the next below.

1 SEC. 4. The relative and assimilated rank between officers of
2 the army and navy shall be as follows: Admirals will take rank
3 with generals, vice-admirals with lieutenant-general, rear-
4 admirals with major-generals, commodores with brigadier-gene-
5 rals, captains with colonels, commanders with lieutenant-colonels,
6 lieutenants commanders with majors, lieutenants with captains,
7 masters and second lieutenants with first lieutenants, ensigns
8 with second lieutenants, midshipmen with cadets.

1 SEC. 5. The annual pay of the several new grades of the offi-
2 cers of the navy established by this law shall be as follows:
3 Vice and rear-admirals the same as now allowed by law to flag
4 officers; commodores that now allowed by law to captains;

5 ensigns the same as now allowed by law to passed midshipmen ;
 6 constructors twenty six hundred dollars ; assistant constructors
 7 fifteen hundred dollars per annum ; officers in all other grades
 8 and ranks will receive the same pay as now allowed by law.

1 SEC. 6. The relative and assimilated rank of officers who
 2 resigned from the United States Navy, to take service in the
 3 Confederate States Navy, will be determined by reference to the
 4 date of commission or warrant held by them in the United States
 5 Navy ; but seniority of commission in all new grades created
 6 shall determine rank.

1 SEC. 7. All officers at sea, or attached to sea-going vessels, or
 2 receiving ships, or doing duty in camp ashore, shall be allowed
 3 one ration per diem.

1 SEC. 8. Midshipmen after their final examination and gradua-
 2 tion, if successful, shall be commissioned ensigns, taking rank
 3 according to merit.

1 SEC. 9. After forty years in the services of the United States
 2 and Confederate States Navies combined, and faithful perform-
 3 ance of duty, an officer shall be permitted to retire upon leave of
 4 absence pay, and the President may, in his discretion, retire
 5 any officer coming within this description, upon one-half the
 6 leave of absence pay of the grade to which he belongs.

1 SEC. 10. For distinguished services in battle, the President
 2 may cause suitable medals to be prepared and presented to such

3 officers, seamen and marines as have merited, or may hereafter
 4 merit them, to be worn on suitable occasions as an incentive to
 5 others to win the gratitude of the country.

1 SEC. 11. There shall be a sufficient number of midshipmen
 2 appointed to make up, with those already appointed, the number
 3 of one hundred and forty-eight; and the appointments to be made
 4 shall be in the States and Congressional Districts which may now
 5 have none, upon the recommendation of the member of Congress
 6 from such District; and, hereafter, when vacancies occur, if from
 7 a District, they shall be filled upon the recommendation of the
 8 member of Congress from that District; if from the State at
 9 large, (each State under the law contemplated by this bill being
 10 entitled to two appointments at large), upon nomination of the
 11 Senators thereof. Ten appointments shall be from the Confed-
 12 eracy at large, and shall be appointed by the President in his
 13 discretion, and vacancies in them filled in his discretion. All
 14 persons appointed shall be within the ages of fourteen and eigh-
 15 teen years.

1 SEC. 12. The Secretary of the Navy is authorized to establish
 2 a school for the instruction of midshipmen under such regulations
 3 as he may prescribe, to be approved by the President, the annual
 4 expenditure for the support of which shall not exceed ten thou-
 5 sand dollars.

1 SEC. 13. Before any officer shall be promoted to the grade of

2 Captain, his fitness in all respects for such grade, and his ability
 3 to perform all its duties, shall be inquired of by five members of
 4 such grade, whose report thereon shall be submitted to the Sec-
 5 retary of the Navy, and he is empowered to convene said board.

1 SEC. 14. The two constructors provided for in this act shall be
 2 commissioned officers, and the five assistant constructors shall be
 3 warrant officers.

1 SEC. 15. The service performed in the United States Navy by
 2 medical officers who have resigned therefrom, and are now com-
 3 missioned officers in the Confederate States Navy, shall be con-
 4 sidered as having been performed under their present commissions.

1 SEC. 16. All laws inconsistent with the provisions of this act,
 2 shall be and are hereby repealed: *Provided*, That an act entitled
 3 "An Act authorizing the appointment of additional officers of
 4 the Navy," approved December 24th, 1861, is not to be affected
 5 by anything herein contained, nor any laws now in existence by
 6 which acting masters in the navy are appointed.

1 SEC. 17. This act shall take effect from and after its passage.

